

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Conservation of Vellayani Lake
Tharoor Dr. Shashi

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Kerala State Biodiversity Board has submitted a concept note for the conservation of the Vellayani Lake, located in Thiruvananthapuram as a Biodiversity Heritage site under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details and the status of the said proposal;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to provide financial assistance of Rs.75 crore required for the conservation of the lake as a biodiversity site, promoting eco-tourism and other capacity building initiatives; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRIANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 263 to be answered on Tuesday, the 21st March, 2017 on 'Conservation of Vellayani Lake' raised by Dr. Shashi Tharoor

(a) to (d) The Kerala State Biodiversity Board has informed that they submitted a concept note for conservation of the Vellayani lake, located in Thiruvananthapuram as a Biodiversity Heritage Site under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. As per the Act, the concerned State Governments have been empowered to notify in consultation with local bodies, areas of biodiversity importance in their States as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. As such, the onus of notifying Vellayani lake in Kerala as a Biodiversity Heritage Site is with the State Government of Kerala. Kerala has not yet notified any such site in the State under the Act.

The Ministry has been supplementing efforts of the State Governments under the scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation of identified lakes and wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. No proposal has been received for conservation of Vellayani lake in Kerala under the scheme of NPCA.
